

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

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EDITOR

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 1914

A prohibitory law in and of itself is not worth much, but if a prohibitory law is backed up by persistent, intelligent, courageous public sentiment the saloon may be driven from any community, large or small.—William Allen White.

JAPAN AND GREAT BRITAIN WORK TOGETHER

The conjecture in these columns some days ago that Japan's war program has been entered into with the full knowledge and the encouragement of Great Britain is amply borne out by Premier Okuma's statement yesterday. Count Okuma says that evidence will be forthcoming at the proper time to show that Great Britain requested Japan's assistance and has approved her entire plans, which were adopted in mutual consultation.

In this fact lies much reassurance for the United States. England's entire diplomatic course is founded on a long look ahead for the most advantageous result. In this case it is to Great Britain's advantage quite as much as to the protection of American interests that Japan take no aggressive action against German island possessions in the Pacific. It is also to Great Britain's advantage that Japan raise no cause for friction with Uncle Sam, for such a situation would place Great Britain in an ugly dilemma. Every tie of blood and natural affiliation would sway Great Britain to stand with the United States, and on the other hand her alliance with Japan, doubly strengthened by Japan's recent action, would call for cooperation with the Mikado's Empire.

Between these alternatives Great Britain will not wish to choose. Her wisest policy is to insist that Japan take a course not hostile to American interests in the slightest degree. And Japan, not ready for a great war off the Asian continent, and further not basically anxious to oppose her American friend, has no reason to run counter to Britain's wishes.

A MISTAKE IN ATTITUDE

About half of the so-called "soldier problem" in Honolulu exists in the minds of a few people who perhaps unconsciously adopt a patronizing manner when talking of the enlisted man of Oahu.

In this opinion the Star-Bulletin is confirmed by the tone of letters that come to the editor almost daily and sometimes twice or thrice a day—letters usually anonymous but in which the soldier evidently speaks frankly and with sincerity. Some of the letters are so intemperate in expression that they can't be published but the great majority are obviously written by men who are talking from the shoulder because their feelings are stirred to plain expression.

The soldier doesn't want to be patronized. He doesn't want to be mollycoddled or pampered. What he wants is a legitimate chance to live in an American community, to amuse himself in a legitimate way, to develop his personal interests without being referred to as a "problem" and without himself and his fellows being looked upon as a "class."

The soldier can solve his own "problem." He will solve it all the quicker if he is given the right to patronize instead of being patronized—to patronize local amusements, take part in local enterprises—like anybody else. The securing of the privilege of wearing civilian clothing will be one long forward step.

SOME INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS

Authorities of the state and navy departments are hard-worked men these days, for the problems raised by the European war are many and perplexing. Some of the international aspects of the war that Uncle Sam is likely to be called upon to help settle are:

First—The status of coal and similar cargoes on the high seas in British, French, or Russian vessels, liable to capture by the Germans, or in German vessels liable to be captured by the British, French or Russians.

Second—The attitude of this government toward the conversion of merchantmen into naval auxiliaries in ports of this country.

Third—The rendering of unneutral service by American radio stations.

Fourth—The granting of asylum to the yes-

sels of belligerents and the internment of any German, British, or other warships that may put into American ports for refitting after damage in a naval battle off American coasts.

The question of granting asylum is considered a very important one. The question of the sojourn of belligerent vessels in American ports was raised in 1904 in the case of the Lena in the harbor of San Francisco.

This case of the Lena has already been referred to in the Star-Bulletin. The Lena was a Russian auxiliary cruiser, which arrived at San Francisco from Vladivostok under command of Lieutenant Berlinsky. She had an armament of 23 guns, a crew of 504 men and 16 officers. Her engines were greatly damaged and it was found it would take a month to repair them. As soon as the Lena arrived at San Francisco the Japanese consul at San Francisco, Uyeno, sent a telegram to his government, which sent a telegram to the Japanese minister at Washington saying that the Japanese government "expects that appropriate measures regarding the matter will be taken by the United States government without delay."

The president directed that the Lena be dismantled and the officers and crew be paroled not to leave San Francisco. The Russian ambassador asked that officers and crew be allowed to leave the United States but Japan protested and the president decided that the repatriation of the Russians was not permissible, under strict neutrality, unless both belligerents agreed to it. Therefore the Lena was interned in San Francisco and her officers and crew held there.

As President Wilson insists on the United States observing neutrality quite as strict as in the case mentioned above, it is probable that if a war-vessel of one of the powers now belligerent should arrive in Honolulu harbor it would be interned here and the officers and men would have to remain.

WAR AND PACIFIC BUSINESS.

The Oakland Industrial Commission is sending out a bulletin which contains the following statement:

"Oakland manufacturers and exporters declare that already they feel the increase of business that is bound to result to the United States from the great conflict.

"Exporters in particular feel the volume of business increase. Oakland men who ship, for instance to Hawaii, China and Japan, declare that during the last week orders have quadrupled from those countries, the Oakland firms being given the business that, until the war started, went to German, French and other foreign concerns."

Alexander Hume Ford's proposal that Hawaii erect a special pavilion at the San Francisco Exposition and dedicate it to the use of all the Pacific countries has received wide and favorable publicity on the Coast.

Voters who expected a gladsome surprise to be sprung Saturday in the form of a corking good candidate for mayor are today murmuring, "Just wait until next campaign."

Honolulu is far from the scene of war but not too far to see a personally-conducted steamship service, with armored cruisers in the role of chaperon.

The number of candidates who are running on a "good roads" platform shows that Honolulu is dissatisfied with the results of the last few years.

If Japan's war-chiefs live up to their reputation, they will strike the enemy somewhere suddenly and terribly.

The news censorship is not quite strict enough to suppress the fact that Germany keeps marching on.

Old King Coal will be a merrier old soul than ever if these warships in the Pacific keep on hunting fuel.

Several crowns are likely to be offered at bargain prices before this European ruction is over.

"Barbarous Mexico" appears to have some competition in the Old World.

Letters OF THE DAY

(The Star-Bulletin invites free and frank discussion in this column on all legitimate subjects of current interest. Communications are constantly received to which no signature is attached. This paper will treat as confidential signatures to letters if the writers so desire, but cannot give space for anonymous communications.)

EXTENSION OF BOOZE-SELLING PRIVILEGES.

Honolulu, Aug. 24.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin:

Sir—And so the creditors of the Waikiki Inn want the drinking public of Honolulu to help them out in the loss they are about to entail through poor management by a licensee to sell booze after hours. Now, while the law gives the liquor commission the right to grant this privilege, I do not believe it was intended that they should do so. Such privileges were not granted under our old laws and it was not the intention of the people to enlarge on the old privileges when the new law was passed. As it is now, there is far more liquor consumed than formerly, and why in the name of goodness should the privileges be extended? Can't drinkers get satisfied before midnight? Is it intended to place liquor before the women and girls and boys who attend the dances so generously advertised at these places that this after hour privilege is wanted? I believe the law intended, by control, to reduce the consumption rather than increase it with special privileges. Is regulation a failure? I am glad to see your paper uninfluenced by page advertisements from liquor houses. And I desire to call the attention of the public to the fact that liquors are now dispensed at about every place in the city where public dances are held, where our young people congregate for pleasure. And at how many of these places is "fortified punch" passed around to all who will accept? Let's

reduce the hours at all places rather than grant after-hour privileges. X.

THE LICENSE BOARD AND CLOSED MEETINGS.

Honolulu, Aug. 24, 1914.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin:

Sir—The intelligent public must be pleased with the stand you take in regard to the meetings of the board of license commissioners. We all know full well that the duties resting upon the five gentlemen who compose the board are difficult. The liquor traffic invariably creates a difficult situation in civic control. We sympathize with the men whose responsibility it is to regulate this public nuisance. They are obliged to interpret a complicated law and enforce its strange provisions. What other line of business requires special legislation and unusual safeguards? The public expense involved for the maintenance of strong drink is tremendous. It might well be asked why it should be regarded as a privileged traffic when other lines of business quietly and peacefully pursue their normal, natural lines. Moreover, the men engaged in the traffic do not assist these public spirited gentlemen serving the city and county without remuneration one little bit. There is no class of business men with whom it is harder to deal. They are so insistent, suspicious and quarrelsome among themselves. The relation of the police to the traffic has also to be considered as well as the hideous question of revenue. We should indeed sympathize with the commissioners and yet we are convinced that their duties would in due time become less difficult to discharge if the board wholly abandoned its private sessions and takes a sympathetic, intelligent public, whose interests are at stake, into its confidence. Why not try it for a season, anyway?

Yours sincerely
CITIZEN.

Personal Mention

GEORGE H. WILLIAMS, sub-land agent at Hilo, who participated in the Shriners' festivities at Waikuku, Maui, on Saturday and Sunday, accompanied the Honolulu contingent to this city. He was in conference with Land Commissioner Tucker, and expects to return to Hilo on Wednesday morning's boat.

Y' MAY AGT AS BANKER FOR HONOLULU TARS

Sailors, marines and other navy men in Honolulu may find a temporary depository for funds in the Young Men's Christian Association if the present plans of Assistant Paymaster Richard E. Lambert of the U. S. S. Alert materialize. According to the scheme which Mr. Lambert has placed before the association for its consideration, it is his idea to have the sailors deposit their money with the association after banking hours. As they are generally paid after the local banks have closed, Mr. Lambert believes that the majority of them would come to look toward the association as a place where their money would be safely kept until such a time as they could place it in the bank.

The matter has been discussed among the association officials who in turn have conferred with a local banking expert regarding the feasibility of such a proposition. Thus far, according to a statement made this morning by the general secretary, no definite plans have been devised to carry out the proposed project.

AS A RULE, YES.

"Do you know the penalty for perjury?" asked the cross-examining lawyer, sternly.

"Yes, sir," said the stubborn witness. "Well, sir, what is the penalty for perjury?" thundered the lawyer.

"It's getting elected to the assembly and going on a lecture tour," answered the witness.—Buffalo Express.

Starting from Hornell on Aug. 31, the New York State Automobile Association will inaugurate its 1014 official tour in the form of a 1000-mile journey through the state.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

—M. A. THOMAS: I am a good Democrat!

—FRANK HALSTEAD: Golfers who wish to improve their long game should play the Schofield Barracks course.

—D. L. CONKLING (from New York): Honolulu is far and away ahead of the New York town, to my way of thinking. We are having some weather just now and Honolulu politics is an iceberg compared with it!

—PAUL SUPER: The secretaries of the Young Men's Christian Association accomplished some good work during their two-days' absence from the city. As a result tentative programs for the association's fall activities have been prepared for submission to the board of directors.

—GENERAL EDWARDS: It would increase the pleasures of local golf if the etiquette of the game was more strictly observed. There are a few simple rules governing the rights of the course that there is never any excuse for disregarding.

—THE TIRED TOURIST: I took an automobile ride Saturday and had occasion to travel from town over the beach road as far as Waikiki beach. The authorities ought to get busy and make some repairs to that thoroughfare. It certainly is a beautiful ride, but its present condition renders it highly uncomfortable.

BREAKWATER COMPANY'S REPRESENTATIVE SAYS HIS DUTIES FINISHED

Mr. Wells, who was sent to Hawaii several months ago to take charge of the Philadelphia Breakwater Company's properties for the trustees in the East, has returned here from Hilo and announces that his duties over there are at an end, the property having now been taken over by George Marshall.

Wells reports that Marshall is going ahead actively at Waipio, building a temporary breakwater at that point with a view to affording safe dockage for the scows which he proposed using in transporting rock from Waipio to the Hilo breakwater.

Failing to agree on terms with the Kapoho quarries, Marshall will now endeavor to complete the big breakwater project at Kihio Bay with material from Waipio, about 45 miles up the Hymakua coast. When Marshall first announced this intention, many thought he was making a "bluff," but he has gone ahead strictly along the lines he declared he would follow. Because of the frequent bad weather,

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May we suggest that the Calling Season will arrive soon enough for this announcement to be considered carefully!

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rough water, adverse winds and general inaccessibility of the Waipio land, many seafaring men still are skeptical concerning the possibility of the venture's success; but while admitting it is considerable of a venture, Marshall has strong faith in its feasibility.

Client—What! You expect me to pay you 250 francs for taking possession of such a small inheritance? You should have warned me it would cost so much.

Lawyer—My motto, sir, is "Deeds; not words."—Pele Mele.

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